

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 14, 1915.

## Little Andorra, the Least Ambitious of Republics



A TYPICAL FARMHOUSE IN ANDORRA.

**F**AR from the boom of cannon and the crash of bursting shrapnel a middle-aged man is laboring with a pickax, chipping little grains out of a bed of solid rock near the wall of an ancient castle. For four years he has been laboring now, and the fruit of his labors is a hole about one yard square and nearly fifteen feet deep. It is weary, patient work, a day's work being scarcely perceptible to the observer. But the man never betrays a sign of impatience. He is willing to continue his task four times four years longer, for he is digging for a dream.

only to himself, this man is convinced that somewhere underneath the spot at which he is digging he will find a solid gold statue of the Virgin and a treasure chest. For these he is digging. When pressed for the reason for his belief he will explain that many years ago, when the inhabitants of the castle were attacked by an enemy, they buried their treasure in a subterranean chamber under the castle and there it has remained ever since. This chamber, he knows, is situated below the hole he is now digging. How far down he cannot say, but he will continue until he reaches it.

By some process of reasoning known He is no madman, this digger. He is

**A** NATION That Has Never Produced a Page of Literature, a Bar of Music, a Painting, Nor a Leader of Men—For a Thousand Years It Has Pursued Its Uneventful Course, Utterly Oblivious to the Progress of the World—Republic Consists of Six Counties and Boasts About a Dozen Towns, and the Entire Population Is About 5,000—Located in the Pyrenees Between France and Spain, There Is Not a Single Railroad Running Through or Near It.



A STREET IN ANDORRA LA VIELLA, THE CAPITAL.

police. Every citizen has the power to arrest, but this privilege is rarely used. The territory was once densely wooded and is said to derive its name from the Moorish Aldarra, "the place thick with trees," but almost all the forests have been destroyed for fuel. The climate is generally cold, with very severe winters. The land is chiefly devoted to grazing for the numerous flocks and herds; but on the sheltered southern slopes it is carefully cultivated, and produces grain, potatoes, some fruit and tobacco. The local industries are of the most primitive kind and show little or no advance since the middle ages. The only roads are bridle paths, with the exception of one municipal road connecting Andorra with the high road to Seo de Urgel and Manresa by way of the Baltra valley.

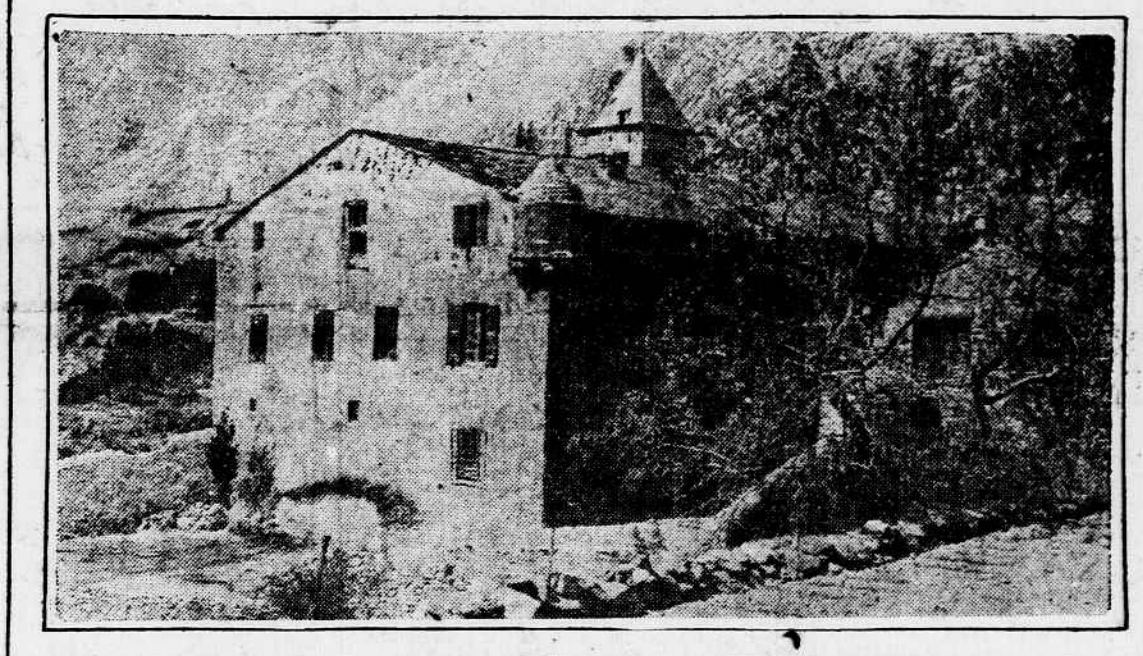
Andorra is perhaps the truest democracy in the world. There is no nobility and there are no class distinctions. All men are equal not only in the eyes of the law, but in the fullest sense of the word. The first citizen of the land, the president, is a farmer. The republic is governed by twenty-four representatives, elected every four years. These representatives choose



WOMEN OUTSIDE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF MERITXELL.

one of their number as president of the republic. His salary is 80 pesetas a year, or \$20. Representatives get 10 pesetas, or \$2.50 a year. However, there are other ways of adding to one's salary if one is a politician in Andorra, just as there are in other republics. In that regard Andorra is quite up to date. Citizens of Andorra never laugh. Life is too serious a problem for them. In spite of the fact that they do not take advantage of the natural resources of the country it must not be concluded that they are lazy. On the contrary, they work very hard. They are merely unambitious and they see no benefits in what we call progress. They stick to the old tools and implements used by their forefathers centuries ago.

Doctors' services are absolutely free and drug stores supply their patrons without charge. Andorrans drink a great deal, and they are untidy in their personal appearance. But they are extremely honest and theft is unknown in the country. Though descended from an ancient race, they are not good looking. Their faces are hard and uncomely, but that is because their lives are hard. The women work beside the men in the field. There are no ladies of leisure and paint and powder are unknown. Andorra made its first effort to take a place among the nations of Europe main at his work as a mason. He was issued a proclamation of neutrality. In this regard it may be mentioned that



THE CASA DE LA VALL, OR THE HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT, IN ANDORRA LA VIELLA.

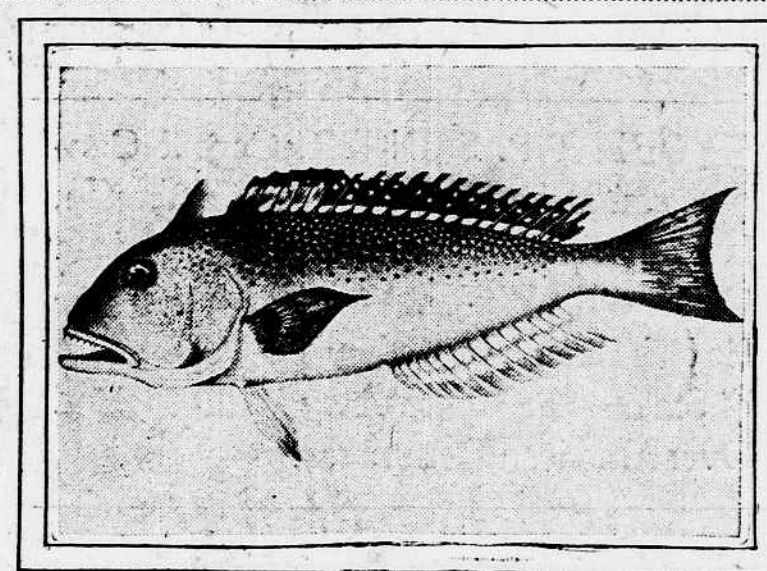
An ambitious man who tries to rise above the level of the mediocrity, which is the rule, is regarded as unbalanced. There is only a single case of such a man on record. He was an innkeeper in Andorra who had traveled in France. He cherished the ambition to develop the hot water springs and commercialize them, making Andorra a popular resort for tourists, but he could not find another man in the republic who would help him. Andorra has never produced a man of talent. Mr. Grant on his last visit, however, came across a stonemason with a remarkable voice. This man had never taken a lesson in his life, but he sang beautifully and accurately. He was a born singer, and his breathing, despite his ignorance of vocal art, was absolutely perfect. Mr. Grant spoke to this man and invited him to leave the republic, offering him all kinds of monetary inducements, but he refused to go, preferring to remain at his work as a mason. He was of Spanish stock, extremely handsome, with wavy hair and wicked black eyes

## MARKETING THE NEW TILEFISH

**T**HE bureau of fisheries is at present endeavoring to put a new fish on the market and introduce it to the public. As a name Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps does not sound particularly promising, and is certainly not easily pronounceable. That, however, is the correct and scientific term for it, and means that this particular fish has a head strongly resembling a chameleon and a crested titus. A pun has been made by the fish's discoverer on the fourth syllable of the first name, so, fortunately, the new fish will be known as a "tilefish," and by the forbidding appellation of Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps may be forgotten for all practical purposes.

The tilefish was discovered by accident. In the year 1869 a Capt. Kirby was fishing near what is known as the Long Island. To his dismay, he drew in hundreds of pounds of a new fish. The fish was comparatively large, running from two to twenty-five pounds in weight, and it was beautifully colored. Capt. Kirby was interested at once and sent a specimen of the fish to the bureau of fisheries. It was subsequently ascertained that the fish were abundant, and, best of all, extremely palatable. Those who have been so fortunate as to taste them claim that they are a cross between a cod and a halibut.

Before the bureau of fisheries had had ample time either to establish a fishery or to commercialize them they mysteriously vanished. In March, 1882, a fisherman informed the government that he had sailed through innumerable nets of fish, both dead and dying. This man covered sixty-nine miles of water the surface of which was a mass of dead fish. Other authentic reports reached the ears of the government verifying all that had been said. The shiftings of the current of the Gulf Stream, and over a billion and a half of them perished. The bureau made a thorough investigation and believe that their death was due to a sudden and mysterious shifting of the Gulf stream. The tilefish belongs to a warm water family of fish, and they live at the bottom of the sea. The shifting of the current of the Gulf stream chilled the waters in which they were living and wiped them out of existence.



THE TILEFISH.

As far as is known they have never been discovered elsewhere. The bureau of fisheries fully realizes the economic importance of tilefish. They are so abundant that time spent by fishermen in any tilefish locality would insure a good catch; it is not a difficult fish to capture, and it can be found all seasons of the year. Its proximity to the coast makes it comfortably accessible, and also permits marketing it in excellent condition. It is a fish that will ship well. Its flesh is firm, yet very tender. The government has chartered a fishing schooner for the express purpose of giving tilefishing a fair trial. They have sent out pamphlets describing and recommending the tilefish, and in this pamphlet is published a dozen recipes tried successfully by a Boston chef. The bureau is also sending placards to wholesale houses for distribution among retailers. These placards advertise the tilefish and announce that it is recommended by the bureau of fisheries. A good-sized picture of the tilefish himself occupies the center of the poster, and is "done" in full colors. The 21st of October 8,000 pounds of tilefish were brought into New York. The 28th of the same month 12,000 pounds were marketed. The consumer can purchase the fish reasonably. In case the markets have, at any time,

## Suspicious Parent.

**C.** J. FAULKNER, counsel for the Chicago meat packers in their confederation suit against the British government, said at a recent dinner: "Traders could get on better if the British were not so suspicious. They doubt everybody. They are like the father—only more so. 'A father, in a deathlike silence, called down stairs to his daughter, solemnly: 'Hannah, what time is it?' 'A pause and Hannah answered: 'It's just quarter after 10, father.' 'All right,' the father said. 'And Hannah, don't forget to start the clock again after the young man goes out to get his breakfast.'"

## BILL TO STEVE.

BY RING W. LARDNER.

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**C**HICAGO, Nov. 12.—Steve. Well Steve I ain't the kind of a man that likes to talk about them self and host but I guess you know with out me telling you that theys some thing in my head besides wind or saw dust.

I and Gussy both of us got tired at the same time of giving these here showers for Fred and his girl and they wasn't getting us nothing but we had to spend the money for refreshments and every thing and not getting nothing out of it. So I says to Gussy well why dont you call them off. And she says she couldn't because she had promised Clara she would go threw with them and besides she had all ready sent out invitations for the 3d shower and it was supposed to come off last night and it was going to be a tin shower that is kichen wear and so 4th. So I says O. K. go a head and give that 1 but call it off after that and dont give no more.

But Gussy says she was not the kind of a woman that would brake there promus and she had gave her word that she would keep on with the diffrent showers till Clara and Fred had enough junk to go to house keeping with it.

Well Steve the more I thot a bout it so much the more I got to thinking what a sucker we was making of our self to put up these big feeds and go to all that trouble and we wasent even getting a much obliged to you so I beggin figuring how could I put a stop to it. So all of a sudden it come to me that the best way to do was for me to quarl with Fred or Clara or the both of them and fix it up so as I and they was not on speaking turns and then of course they couldnt come to our house because I wouldnt speak to them.

Of coarse I couldnt pull this off wile Gussy was a round or she would get wise and be sore at me to. So Fred and his girl was over to our house to dinner last Tues. noon and I sat Fred where was he going that night and he says he was going to take Clara down to a cafe where we often go to and dance a wile. So I didnt say nothing to Gussy till after supper and then I says I would half to go out and see a man and would be back pretty soon and so I snuck out and went down to this here cafe.

Well the 2 of them wasent in there when I 1st. come so I had to set a round and have a couple drinks by myself but pretty soon they come shoveling in big as life and all drest up like a horse and I left them set down to a table and pertended like I didnt see them. But they snely spotted me and sent a waiter over to tell me to com and join them so I went over to there table and says I was surprised to see them there and I couldnt stay with them long because I was waiting for a man on business. So then Fred ast me to have a drink and I had 1 with them and when the waiter come with the check I says I would pay for it expecting Fred would insist on paying for it on acct. of he having ordered it and then I could start a argument with him. But I should ought to of knew better than try and start a quarl on that subject with him because he never peeped when I says I would pay for it but jest give in and left me pay for it.

But my real chance come right after that. The music started up and I ast Clara to dance and says if I was going to dance a tall I would half to dance the 1st. dance because I was in a hurry. So she says all right and we got up and begin to dance. Well Steve I aint no Isadore Duncan or his wife when it comes to dancing because Im all out of practice and I wasent trying very hard to dance good because this here Clara is a good dancer and I knowed she would get sore if I didnt do it right. So we hadent hardly more than got a round the rim. ont when I manazed to step on her tose and she hollered ouch and I says ouch your self and keep your ft. out of the way. And she says That was your falt and I says if that was my falt the Belgiumns started the war. So she says whats that with you tonight are you stude. I says No I aint nothing like you. I says I can pass past a brewy sine with out loosing control of my ft. So she says you better take me back to where Freds at. So I says yes and the sooner I will be better pleased. So we come back to the table and Fred could see they was something wrong so he says whats was the matter and Clara says I was trying to inseat her and Fred says Id better not so I seen my chance and I says You couldnt stop me if I wanted to light in to you but your nothing but a schrimp and my wifes brother besides so I dont want no trouble with you. But I says dont never darken up my doors again nether 1 of you. And then I walked out with out looking back at them and I had all as I could do to help from busting out laughing. Wasent that a hot 1 Steve.

Well I didnt say nothing to Gussy a bout it and the next day Fred called up and I ansered the phone and he says I dont want to talk to you so I want to talk to my sister. So I says well she dont want to talk to you so I slamed up the receiver. So he didnt call up no more. And last night we got all ready to entertain the guests that was coming for the shower and Gussy was wandering why Fred and Clara didnt show up and she was pretty sore at them for not calling up or nothing and she quast all brot some tin kichen wear some of it pretty good stuff and of coarse wear that much a head because now we can keep it our self. Of coarse I am going to tell Gussy the truth in a day or 2 and we will have a good laugh over it. But I wont make up my quarl with them other 2 till there married and there house all furnished. Not so bad hey Steve.

Respy. BILL.



PEDRO FONT, President of Andorra.

ever troubled to keep records, and therefore it has practically no history, even its very origin being a matter of dispute. It is probable, however, that the story which says that its independence dates from the year 805 is fairly correct, though some modifications in its charter have no doubt taken place since, particularly in the thirteenth century, when we begin to get accurate information as to its history. In 805 Louis the Debonair laid siege to the city of Urgel which is to the south of Andorra. The Andorrans, led by Marc Almugaver, took up arms to aid the French, and for their assistance Louis gave them a charter and permitted them to be self-governing. As it now exists it is the smallest republic in the world. It is situated in the Pyrenees between France and Spain. It is about eighteen miles wide and sixteen miles long from north to south. It is difficult of access, as there is not a single railroad running through or near it.

Its capital is Andorra la Vella, with a population of 500 and containing the casa de la vall, or house of representatives. This is a large sixteenth century building at the extremity of the town, overlooking the valley toward Spain. It is parliament house, town hall, school, palace of justice and hotel for the councilors, all in one. It is also used as a temporary prison in the rare cases when a prison is necessary. Crime in Andorra is practically unknown. The only Andorrans suffering imprisonment are the smugglers of tobacco caught by the French or Spanish customs officers, and these are not looked upon as malefactors by their fellow citizens. Smuggling is regarded as a legitimate trade. There is no police department and no